

VZCZCXR08967
PP RUEHIK
DE RUEHIK #0036 2471406
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 041406Z SEP 09
FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0468
INFO RUEHHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY 0344
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHMFIS/Joint STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEHIK/AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI 0511

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 000036

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/SE, DS/IP/EUR, DS/DSS/TIA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL ASEC KCRM GR

SUBJECT: ANTI-TANK ROCKETS FOUND BURIED OUTSIDE THESSALONIKI

REF: THESSALONIKI 0063

¶1. (SBU) On Wednesday, 02 September 2009 at 13:30 hours, eight U.S. anti-tank rockets were discovered buried in the mountains of Nea Vrasna in the Northern Greek prefecture of Thessaloniki by the Special Financial Investigation Service (YPEE) regional headquarters for Northern Greece. The rockets were transferred to a Greek army camp, PAP 680, located in Nea Messimvria, a village 20km west of Thessaloniki. Parallel investigations into the case are being conducted by the Greek military and the Greek national police. The discovery has attracted extensive interest in the local press.

¶2. (SBU) According to close post contacts at YPEE, the rockets were discovered via a telephone tip from a person who was illegally searching the area for gold. YPEE worked in cooperation with the Thessaloniki Coast Guard's Special Forces team to reach the remote site where the rockets were located and to safely retrieve and transport them. The Greek military, national police, and the Thessaloniki public prosecutor were notified.

¶3. (SBU) According to sources, seven of the rockets unearthed at the site were wrapped. One rocket was not and had the following markings:

ROCKET HEAT A/T 3, 5'' M28A1/A2, SQD 11-51-10-55,

Pipe type: M404A1, [Greek letters Sigma and Delta] 11-43-8-55.

¶4. (SBU) Post FSN Investigator Prokopis Tsitsios remains in close contact with YPEE officers conducting the investigation and has multiple photos of the site and the rockets themselves. For further information please contact him by phone at +30 2310 242-905 ext. 3114 or via unclass email at TsitsiosPN@state.gov [NOTE: Thessaloniki is EDT+7].

KAY